

**Kelly Air Force Base
Environmental Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)
April 16, 2002 Meeting Minutes
Kennedy High School**

Members/Alternates Present

Mr. Adam Antwine	Government	Air Force Base Conversion Agency
Mr. Paul Person	Community Member	
Mr. Mike DeNuccio	Community Member	
Mr. Rodrigo Garcia	Community Member	
Mr. Nazarite Perez	Community Member	
Dr. Gene Lené	Community Member	
Mr. Sam Murrah	Community Member	
Ms. Tanya Huerta	Community Member	
Mr. Larry Bowman	Community Member	
Mr. Mark Puffer	Community Member	
Mr. George Rice	Community Member	
Mr. Armando Quintanilla	Community Member	
Ms. Esmeralda Galvan	Community Member	
Ms. Irma Smith	Community Member	
Mr. Gary Miller	Government	Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Mark Weegar	Government	Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Mr. Bob Rasmussen	Government	Greater Kelly Development Authority
Mr. Curtis Pearson	Government	San Antonio Metropolitan Health Alternate
Mr. Nicolas Rodriguez	Government	Bexar Metropolitan Water District
Mr. William Ryan	Government	Air Force Base Conversion Agency
Dr. David Smith	Contractor	Booz Allen Hamilton
Mr. Bob Miller	Contractor	BAH
Ms. Lisa Hassell	Contractor	BAH
Ms. Lynn Myrick	Contractor	BAH
Mr. Eddie Martinez	Contractor	BAH
Mr. Tim Sueltenfuss	Contractor	BAH
Ms. Tracy McLoughlin	Contractor	BAH
Mr. Hugh Farr	Contractor	BAH

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Gene Lené began by introducing himself and stating that the goals for the meeting which were to advise and comment on the cleanup and to help to inform the community. He asked that the RAB members take a moment and review the meeting minutes from the February RAB. Ms. Tanya Huerta asked if the RAB had decided to include alternates as well or just the members present. Mr. Armando Quintanilla replied that members who are not attending

should be recognized so in order to allow someone from the community to become a RAB member. He added that the RAB charter should be reviewed to determine how many meetings RAB members can miss so that those who are truly interested can become a RAB member. Dr. Lené then stated that if there was no objection that the minutes from the February RAB had been accepted. Dr. David Smith then instructed the RAB to review their supplemental packages. The supplemental materials included the final agenda and the ASTDR and Zone 4 surveys. He also reminded the RAB members that during their review of the supplemental materials, they should also keep track of any questions they might have and to use the question and answer portion of the meeting to present those issues. Ms. Tanya Huerta asked if an article in the local press featuring the upcoming plugging of abandoned wells. Mr. Doug Karas replied that it would be featured in the newsletter that is distributed throughout the community.

Dr. Smith then stated that according to the RAB charter, the April RAB meeting is the time to elect a Co-Chair. Mr. Quintanilla then stated that he wished to nominate Dr. Lené for the position. His motion was seconded and a vote was taken during which there was unanimous support for having Dr. Lené continue to hold this position.

Dr. Lené indicated that the community comment period of the RAB would now begin. Mr. Robert Silvas opened the discussion saying that he believed the Technical Review Subcommittee meeting minutes were inaccurate. He said that the minutes recording process were not right and unreal. He proposed using a digital recording system instead of note takers and he also recommended that the minutes be passed out to people at Kelly. Mr. Larry Bowman then addressed the audience by saying that the RAB was there for the community and to please ask questions. He said the RAB is happy to answer any and all questions the community might have. Mr. George Rice then stated that it was important to look more closely and discuss the contents of the binder. Ms. Esmeralda Galvan then stated that there were grammatical errors and misquotes reflected in the meeting minutes and that the meetings needed to be taped.

Dr. Lené then stated that the TRS and Base Cleanup Team BCT had been very active. He added that the presentations made by Mr. Fleming on cleanup techniques of soil vapors were meant to provide progress updates. Dr. Lené also stated that when the report came out the TRS had decided that it not get released to the press. However it made it to the press and therefore the RAB owed Dr. Katherine Squibb an apology.

Mr. William Ryan addressed the RAB stating that the ultimate goal is to find a way to transfer property to the Greater Kelly Development Authority GKDA with as few problems as possible. He added officials from the Air Force Base Conversion Agency AFBCA have been out within the community discussing the issue with residents affected. Mr. Ryan also stated that about 30 community members have been sent letters to allow the Air Force to come out to their property and plug those wells.

Mr. Quintanilla then asked Mr. Ryan about the BCT meeting. Mr. Quintanilla asked for an answer to a question asked about Johnson Ediger. Mr. Ryan responded saying that the answer was yes and that sampling is going to be done during the summer and the reports will be given to the city. Mr. Quintanilla then recommended providing the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ATSDR with a copy of sampling reports due this summer. He added that Mr.

Ryan had already agreed with his proposal. Ms. Galvan stated the location site maps had been lost when the sample modeling was performed. She asked if the RAB would be getting copies of this report as well. Mr. Mark Weegar then interjected saying that the files had not been lost and that the construction around the area made things difficult to pinpoint. Ms. Galvan said that when she asked Dr. Squibb if sampling would be performed in the most contaminated areas, she agreed that it would be. She asked if that was still going to be done. Mr. Weegar said that discussions on the issue of further sampling with a toxicologist will happen soon and that the process will go forward from there.

Mr. Genaro Rendon, sitting in the audience, asked if there was a handout that listed the acronyms and their meanings. He asked as an example, if the public knew what BCT or TRS meant and if the AFBCA could issue a handout to everyone. Mr. Ryan responded saying yes and that the cleanup team consisted of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission TNRCC, Environmental Protection Agency EPA, and the AFBCA.

Zone 4 & 5 CMS

Dr. Smith then introduced Mr. Doug Karas and asked him to begin his presentation. Mr. Karas thanked Mr. Smith for the introduction and stated that he would be presenting an overview of the Zone 4 and 5 Corrective Measures Study CMS. Mr. Rice asked if pumping wells would be placed in the general areas of where the purple marks are on the layout. Mr. Rice said he was referring to the black squares on the conceptual cleanup layout. Mr. Ryan said they were previously existing wells. Mr. Quintanilla asked how long the contamination has existed in the neighborhoods. Mr. Karas said since 1988. Mr. Quintanilla asked if the community had to wait another 50 years and what had been done since. Mr. Silvas asked if the permeable reactive barrier PRB when left alone after completing the cleanup would breakdown. Mr. Karas said that the engineers working on the project have taken design of the PRB into account. Ms. Galvan asked if the PRB filters out contaminants, what happens to the wall. Mr. Karas stated that the PRB was made of steel. Mr. Ryan stated that the contaminants do not adhere to the wall, they are broken down to less harmful substances and then converted to useful products. Mr. Quintanilla asked how many walls were being planned. Mr. Ryan said the AFBCA is proposing to construct 2 walls. He added that the PRBs would be deep as they need to be to reach the groundwater contamination and would be about 1000 feet long and filled with iron filings. Mr. Quintanilla asked if in 15 years would the community be able to drink this water. Mr. Ryan said the water would have to be tested. Mr. Silvas asked if the PRBs posed any contamination to the water. Mr. Ryan said no. Mr. Silvas asked when the testing of the contamination began. Mr. Ryan said since 1982, but that contamination was first detected in 1988. Ms. Galvan asked what year the PRB was last used. Mr. Weegar stated that PRBs were relatively new technologies but they have been in use for the last 10 years and that PRBs do work. Ms. Galvan asked where PRBs were being used. Mr. Weegar said that PRBs were working successfully in Carswell AFB, in Texas. Mr. Silvas asked if it was common practice to leave PRBs underground. Mr. Weegar said there was no reason to remove the PRBs because they are not a cloggable filter. Mr. Silvas asked if there was no further contamination being put out into the groundwater. Mr. Weegar said no. Mr. Silvas stated that his question had still not been answered regarding whether or not the technology has worked in the past. Mr. Weegar stated that PRBs are still a relatively new technology, but thus far have been working well. Mr.

Rodrigo Garcia said that since PRBs were a relatively new technology, they should be monitored every 5 years. He also asked if the iron filings ever wear out and if it was known what shape they will be in 20 years from now. Mr. Weegar said he wanted to explain monitoring to the RAB. He said it was a new technology and therefore still in the process of being worked on and evaluated. Mr. Rice asked if the model assumed 100% efficiency on the plume map. Mr. Ryan replied yes. Mr. Rice asked if the data would be available to the RAB on CD or pdf format. Mr. Ryan said yes and that it will be made available on the web-site in pdf format. Ms. Huerta asked if the wall does not act as a filter, then what should it be referred to as? Mr. Ryan said it should be thought of as an area of contaminant removal, permeable reactive walls, or permeable reactive barriers. Mr. Weegar added that if the RAB or anyone in the community wanted to, they could go to the ITRC (check with Tracy) web-site and get more information on PRBs. Ms. Galvan asked if there was a school located by the reactive barrier and if so was there a safety plan in place in case of an accident. Mr. Ryan said the AFBCA did have a health and safety plan for every project and that there will be one available for this reactive barrier. Ms. Huerta asked if Mr. Ryan could please tell the RAB what Zone 5 is again. Mr. Karas answered saying south of HWY 90 at General McMullen street. Mr. Quintanilla asked in reference to the PRB, would it be located within the community or on the base. Mr. Karas stated that the PRB would be installed on base and will be discussed during the enhanced bioremediation portion of the presentation. (Check with Doug on this point) Mr. Silvas asked if there was any new data available for the RAB. Mr. Karas replied that yes there is one available, but that it was not included in his presentation due to time constraints. Mr. Silvas asked which was of greater concern, TCE or PCE. Mr. Karas responded saying that both were of concern since one is not more harmful than the other. Mr. Rice asked if the barrier that was described in the presentation was in fact going to be built. Mr. Karas answered yes, but that the AFBCA was awaiting state guidance. Mr. Weegar said the TNRCC provide the EPA with the necessary documents for review, however the incorrect documents were reviewed. He said TNRCC decided then to have EPA review all the documents regarding the plume and that they are just waiting on that process to be completed. He concluded saying that Dr. Lené gets a copy of all TNRCC correspondence in relation to RAB findings. Mr. Silvas RS/question on this subject, this is 99-00, do you have a new one available for us?

DK/there is one available, but there hasn't been time to put it together

Mr. Garcia asked if Zone 5 included Kelly Gardens. He also asked if other contaminants would be discussed, such as aircraft junkyards. Ms. Huerta stated that when you look at the PCE map, it shows much of the plume above Interstate 90. She asked if there were plans to install any sort of wall in these areas. Mr. Weegar responded saying that walls have already been installed and dry cleaning businesses that a wall was installed in the sidewalk in front of their business. Ms. Huerta stated there looked to be different levels of Perchloroethylene PCE along Interstate 90. Mr. Rice said given the documents the Air Force has now, would any new documents be produced showing exactly what is going to be done. Mr. Karas replied yes. Mr. Silvas asked if Mr. Karas foresaw any delays concerning the 2004 deadline. Mr. Karas responded saying that as an optimist, he is inclined to head toward the 2004 deadline and added that he envisioned no delays in sight.

Announcements

Actual notification that next RAB, the Charter Subcommittee?

Focus group

Dr. Squibb/Summary of comments on the ATSDR petitioned public health assessment Kelly AFB, aka East Kelly AFB

East Kelly is a very small area primarily used for storage

Will give a little overview of ATSDR review so that you may follow along with the presentation.

In first report, looked at Phase I. In this report, only looked at exposure pathways. When ATSDR looks at exposure pathways, they only look at the health hazards. They look at amounts and dose and whether it a harmful amount.

RS/Are these standard numbers that are applied nationwide?

DR.S/yes, they are set by ATSDR.

Important to remember that ATSDR does not collect their own data, they only use what is given to them from other agencies.

?S/they can only go back to 1993

Dr.S/you are correct, they can only look at the records that they have on file and that they are given by other agencies

RS/going back to past information, will this be relevant to the study at all

Dr. S/ you can go back to the study and continue to look at information from past years, but it does take a while to put reports together.

ATSDR measures data that is out there. One has to make certain that what is measured by virtue of what is used. All the chemicals have to be measured. R

RS/ These numbers are of concern to the people offbase?

DR.S These numbers are standard numbers. The report is looking for off base contamination

If the base is 1988-1993 these figures do not apply to this contamination? ALS, Lupus, all the community must be considered in terms of determining contamination levels. If the AF is responsible for gathering the data, why has it not considered the older contamination data? The information that this report is based upon therefore is inaccurate. You do have to consider past contamination levels.

Dr. S/ These figures are catching the current exposure levels. Contamination differs from the kinds of contaminants used as well as external factors at the time of contamination.

RS/ Ask about the inhalation of the contaminated soil? Was this report for off base purposes?

Dr. S Yes

EG/ But for some reason why it wasn't investigated by ATSDR? Why? People can get affected?

AQ/ Letter from the RAB to ATSDR regarding status of??? **(Come back to this point)**

AQ/ what was the contamination prior to the cleanup? I don't think AFBCA

TH/ Don't pre-cleanup values exist?

AQ/ Why not?

AA/ The site of where the items were stored was at that location. The determination was made in terms of how far it spread out.

MW/ A background value for metals that naturally exist in all environments. The RAB has been briefed on soil samples that have been taken as part of a basic community outreach effort and comparing groundwater samples. 1 or 2 locations associated with areas that we expect to have higher levels, for example when leaded gasoline was more common.

IS/Can you speak to the toxicity levels of arsenic? Since we don't have a base to go by since records were kept?

Dr. S/ This cleanup involved disposal of soil at the site.

MW/ Adapt the model or use of VOCs, was not designed the model was not designed for VOCs. What besides VOCs volatilizes at that rate?

Dr. S/ The model was designed specifically for VOCs in the groundwater. Things like benzene are included, chlorinated compounds et al.

RS/ The absences of data. Why?

Dr. S/ The EPA simply does not have a lot fo data.

RS/ is there an agency that might have that data?

Dr. S/ The EPA is the agency with responsibility.

MW/ There is simple not that much research avaalble

Dr. S/ EPA gets a committee together to analyze certain data. In this case, data regarding these chemicals.

IS/ You mean your study wouldn't you know how toxic a substance s?

Dr. S/ Are you referring to a specific substance?

IS/ Do you use your own experience or what you've learned?

Dr. S/ A little of both.

IS/ I got cancer.

MW/ Did any of the measured concentrations in the 80s exceed the indoor air concentrations?

Dr. S/ I'd have to go back and look. That's a good question. I don't know for sure.

MW/ The model predicts something. Collecting soil gas samples. I'm curious what was actually collected.

Dr. S/ I'd have to check that for sure.

PR/ In regards to the 2nd bullet have you reviewed other ATSDR

DR. S/ What your getting from ATSDR is inhalation effects. These models and therefore information your getting from this report is new and something ASDR does not do very often.

EG/ At your least meeting you said children and the elderly are at greater risk, correct?

Dr. S/ Yes, the elderly have decreased immune systems and children are just developing.

MW/ Were the groundwater monitoring wells co-located with soil gas monitoring? long term monitoring wells?

Dr. S/ I'm not sure. The soil gas was there but I looked at soil gas that was more recent.

RS/ You said groundwater, shallow groundwater?

Dr. S/ Yes

RS/ I'm no expert, but given the recent proposal by the city to put fluoride in the water, are these chemicals similar?

Dr. S/ fluoride is very different from vinyl chloride. They are not the same compounds.

MW/ On the issue of validating additional soil gas elements, is indoor air monitoring soil gas, will that give one a accurate measure?

DR. S/ It will not give an accurate gauge of soil gas.

MW/

Dr. S/ If your going to have a model, then you can, for the future It's a useful tol to get the right answers.

GR/ Its important to get it right. Some assumptions have been incorporated into the model, gross errors have been incorporated into the model.

TH/ Can you take information, can you take the indoor air modeling, is it possible to predict what past exposure has existed?

Dr. S/ I've never seen that being done. I don't know how accurate it would be.

TH/ No one is doing this kind of investigation?

DR. S/ You get a ballpark figure, you could get those calculations, those who are more aware of natural attenuation figures would be better equipped to answer that question. Many unknowns exist.

TH/ Many cancers exist in the community

Dr. S/ The best we can do right now is continue to monitor and sample

TH/ Screen the population to prevent it from continuing

Dr. S/We can't stop past exposures, but groundwater modeling is a new science. Going back in time is going to be difficult.

TH/ How unusual is this.

Dr. S/ It is a large plume.

RG/ Shouldn't we state that further investigation is required, as opposed to further information is needed.

IS/ All these chemicals by themselves cause certain things. Are they found in the water?

Dr. S/ Yes

IS/ If they cause illness alone, aren't they more toxic combined?

Dr. S/The toxicity does increase.

J Neathery/TAPP report presentation/Zone 4 OU2

No one had any questions

DS/RAB members let me remind you about the survey in front of your binders regarding the last two presentations, please give comments

Lisa Sword/would like to clear the air about the comment made regarding a leak to the press, was that being targeted at the Current? I was at the meeting and that is all I reported. I did not have a copy of the report.

EG/public comment time was cut halfway through the meeting, should be earlier, no community members on the cleanup

Arthur Galindo/would like to put in a good word for Kelly AFB even though they are already gone. Are we talking about the environment, or are we talking about our health?

All I have heard is what it's doing to the environment. Should not have let the AF go so early.

What we are doing now for millions of dollars, could have been done with half that if the AF was still here.

DS/RAB members should not speak during public comment periods.

Dr. Lené/The public comment periods are for the general public, not the RAB members

CP/Share concerns with the community over health issues, will make a proposal, get it approved internally, then get it approved by AFBCA. Once we agree that the proposal is good, then we will get a contractor to go ahead and work on this.

Fruit and Nut Study-we have received the report in March and contracted with Dr. Donnelly, a toxicologist, to review this report. Received e-mail yesterday and once he finishes his report, we will move ahead.

Third, have contacted the VA to send a report of the connection with ALS and pesticides. Once they are done with this, they will send us a copy.

The AF, along with AFIERA, need to conduct their own study of AF people at Kelly

The web-site to get more information is www.alsa.org.

Mr. Galindo, you had mentioned that no one is doing anything about health. That is not true.

We have the operational portion of the clinic available to give information to the public. Our clinic is located at 803 Castroville Road.

TH/is there information available to review death certificates of persons that died from contamination within the plume area?

AA/couple of items: we have identified 30 shallow GW wells, you will hear more about us going on properties to remove these wells, we will set up sessions to go out to schools to educate children on the contamination and the cleanup being accomplished

There are suggestions to possibly move the repositories to the Las Palmas Library to make them more accessible

TH/EJG: we have the final copy ready for distribution, just need to get it printed and sent out. Once we get budget for it, we will send out.

Outreach will be available at the plume.

RG/would like to see a staff report on ALS

Last RAB meeting there was a discussion on six mile creek and leon creek and me and AQ requested information on this. would like to see action taken. We need to have property values studied.

MW/AF doing an assessment on leon creek to determine all contaminants, Dr. Lené was provided a copy of these comments. Six mile creek is addressed in the Zone 4 comments.

AQ/would like to start off by briefing on the RAB Charter Review Next meeting will be held on April 23, 2002. Our committee is putting forth great efforts to come up with a mission statement that will describe the objectives of the RAB Charter Committee.

One of the hang-ups is the DOD guidance. On Feb 19, the SWU read another letter to the RAB. The letter commented that the community did not receive any reports stating the cleanup process at Kelly AFB. To date, the community has not received any letters, or reports.

DS/The question AQ poses about what you would like to have done at future RAB meetings...

Dr. Lené/to what extent are these comments addressed to the AF? We need to clearly differentiate whom the questions are addressed to.

TH/I think that if people care enough to come and speak with us, they deserve a response.

Adam, are they still responding to all letters being received?

AA/We are still trying to respond to everything in a timely matter. We need to find a process to distribute those questions to the appropriate agencies so that they can give a proper response.

TH/if we talk about a consolidated response, are we referring to the questions brought up here?

DS/What we're noting is that we need a process to get the questions to the right agencies.

RG/we need to do two things: we need to get an organized process on how to handle the questions, a specific procedure needs to be written

LB/agree with Mr Garcia up to a point, some questions can be answered directly and right then and there. We need to take an action plan to make things happen.

TH/some people do not have all the history of what is being discussed so we need to take that into consideration, but I agree some things can be answered immediately

LB/there was a lady that wanted to know why there was not a RAB member in the BCT and her question was never answered; just had a lengthy discussion on the subject.

TH/we need to keep in mind that we are an advisory board, people lose site of that sometimes

MP/we need to keep a logbook to keep track of issues being discussed and where we are on those issues.

MD/Isn't a process already in place to do this?

RS/one last comment to the members: is there any litigation going on regarding land use of the property on Kelly

MW/we need to look at what is the established process for answering questions being addressed to the RAB members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.